

## The Quantifiable Evidence of Censorship:

### Information Loss in the 2011 Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Koch Committee Report

#### Methodological Note:

In 2011, the FSU Faculty Senate Ad Hoc committee conducted an investigation into the agreement between FSU and the Charles Koch Foundation. The investigation produced a report, which was later heavily revised in cooperation with administrators.

[Standley Report \(Uncensored\)](#)

[Walker Report \(Censored\)](#)

In the chart below, you will find an assessment of information loss from the first report to the final report - the "Standley report" and "Walker report," respectively. Many provisions in the Standley report contain several independent clauses. For accuracy, we have broken the Standley report into independent clauses, and tracked them to see when they are present in the Walker report.

## Results

Number of Findings Completely Omitted: 20 out of 36 (55%)

Number of Recommendations Completely Omitted: 17 out of 21 (80%)

(11 of the remaining findings (68%) are **watered down**)

(2 of the remaining recommendations (50%) are **watered down**)

## See All Work Below

Indep. Clause	Entirely Omitted in Walker?	Full Text of Uncensored (Standley) Report	Location in Standley	Location In Walker	Watered Down?
1	NO	<h2>Findings</h2> <p>"The committee feels that this issue is not about the study of free-market economics. It is about outside control and undue influence over the academic endeavors of the FSU Economics department and about abatement of faculty control over the curriculum of the Economics department."</p>	Finding 1, pg 1	1, pg 3	NO
2	YES	"The committee found that there was extreme dissent among faculty on this issue at its inception which continues to this time some 3 years later."	Finding 2.i, pg 2		
3	YES	Dissenting faculty reported an atmosphere of intimidation and administrative dictate by the Dean	Finding 2.ii, pg 2		

		"[The dean] prevented faculty input on academic integrity or curricular issues. During the discussions on development of the Koch proposal, no formal process for considering these opinions was allowed. Faculty specifically requested a vote on accepting the Koch agreement and this was rejected by the Dean who told us he did this because he did not intend to take their input. The Faculty Senate Constitution and generally accepted discourse on academic freedom place curricular issues under the province of faculty. The Dean erred in not allowing established faculty governance process to function. It should be noted that each department within the university establishes its own by-laws for faculty governance. Traditionally, the Economics department has elected an Executive Committee and left all issues of curricular development, faculty hiring, and departmental development to this group. This trusting, governance at a distance process functioned well when issues were within established, traditional bounds, but was inadequate to handle the intense controversy of the Koch issue. Attempts to move into a more active governance mode by the faculty on the Koch issue were stifled by the Dean and by the Department Chair who regularly emailed interpretations of the Dean's wishes. It was repeatedly stated by faculty that an atmosphere of intimidation was thus generated. It was reported that the Dean made threats about future teaching assignments if Koch money was not available, that dissent with the Koch agreement was viewed as faculty disloyalty by the department chair, and that memos from the department chair were argumentative and angry. Many faculty were loathe to speak to the Koch issue in this atmosphere, particularly the untenured ones"		
4	YES		Finding 2.iii, pg 2	
5	YES	"The committee determined that the Koch Memorandum of Understanding as currently written allows undue, outside influence over FSU's academic content and processes, a codified "danger that the doctrine of academic freedom is designed to avoid"	Finding 3, pg 3	
6	NO	"There was Koch control over selection of FSU tenure-track faculty for funded positions via veto power"	Finding 3.a.i, pg 3	3.c, pg 5-6 YES
7	YES	"There was . . . Koch prior approval of the advertisement used for filling positions"	Finding 3.a.ii, pg 3	
8	NO	"There was. . . . Koch establishment of parallel interview activities at the professional conference where the FSU search committee was interviewing applicants.	Finding 3.a.iii, pg 3	3.c, pg 5 footnote
9	NO	"The agreement states that the promotion and tenure process for Koch funded faculty must include an evaluation of their contribution to Koch objectives. This may be a violation of the UFF contract. "	Finding 3.b, pg 3	4, pg 6 YES
10	NO	"The agreement mandated a particular individual to serve as chair of the department. The departmental by-laws state that the Dean appoints the chair with input from the faculty. The re-appointment of Bruce Benson with the implementation of the Koch agreement did not include faculty input. Again, the Dean erred on a faculty governance issue."	Finding 3.c, pg 3	5, pg 6-7 YES
11	NO	"Administrative raises for the department chair constituted a conflict of interest."	Finding 3.d, pg 3	5.i, pg 7 YES
12	NO	"A further egregious conflict of interest was apparent in the development and implementation of the Koch agreement. An FSU PhD student for whom the department chair was major professor worked for Koch, wrote the initial proposal"	Finding 3.e.i, pg 3-4	5.ii, pg 7 YES
13	NO	"An FSU PhD student . . . worked for Koch, wrote the initial proposal"	Finding 3.e.ii, pg 4	5.ii, pg 7 YES
14	YES	"An FSU PhD student . . . worked for Koch . . . received a Koch fellowship funded via the agreement"	Finding 3.e.iii, pg 4	
15	YES	"An FSU PhD student . . . helped negotiate the agreement proposing that Benson remain chair and be given administrative pay raise"	Finding 3.e.iv, pg 4	
16	YES	"An FSU PhD student . . . reported to Benson on Koch interests in faculty selection and hiring, etc."	Finding 3.e.v, pg 4	
17	YES	"The Koch fellowships for graduate students [exist]"	Finding 3.f.i, pg 4	

18	YES	"The Koch fellowships for graduate students . . . may have targeted a specific type of graduate student that is not representative of the diversity of the Economics department"	Finding 3.f.ii, pg 4		
19	YES	"determination of awards [for Koch fellowships for graduate students] have not been implemented with input from the Graduate Admissions Committee"	Finding 3.f.iii, pg 4		
20	NO	"The "Economics Club" [was] conceived by the Koch agreement"	Finding 3.g.i, pg 4	6.c, pg 12-13	YES
21	NO	The "Economics Club" . . . is not representative of the diversity of departmental curricular offerings."	Finding 3.g.ii, pg 4	6.c, pg 12-13	YES
22	YES	"There were repeated reports that it promotes dogma rather than academic inquiry."	Finding 3.g.iii, pg 4		
23	NO	"Scholarships of \$200/semester are given for reading books on a list"	Finding 3.g.iv, pg 4		
24	YES	"[reading] list developed by the Koch funded program, not the Economics faculty as a whole"	Finding 3.g.v, pg 4		
25	YES	"The club website now shows legislative initiatives, an activity specifically prohibited by the Koch Memorandum of Understanding"	Finding 3.g.vi, pg 4		
26	NO	"Specific course content is dictated by the funding agreement"	Finding 3.h.i, pg 4	6.a. pg 9	NO
27	YES	"Specific course content . . . dictated by the funding agreement. . . implemented through the Devoe Moore Center"	Finding 3.h.ii, pg 4		
28	YES	"Specific course content . . . dictated by the funding agreement. . . specifically that an academic course requiring "Atlas Shrugged" as a text be taught"	Finding 3.h.iii, pg 4		
29	YES	"FSU course content and assignments should not be for sale. "	Finding 3.h.iv, pg 4		
30	NO	"Koch funded non-tenure track faculty have been assigned to teach the service courses in Economics. . . .These courses teach approximately 7000 FSU students/yr."	Finding 3.i, pg 4	6.b, pg 11	NO
31	NO	"Criticism of this administrative move asserts that faculty oversight of these positions and content no longer rests with the Economics department at large, but with the SPEFE Program. "	Finding 3.i.i, pg 4-5	6.b, pg 11	YES
32	YES	"Further criticism concerns implementation of issues related to the Koch agreement and that a free market firewall was established in the department with issues like content of service courses behind this firewall that did not allow for usual faculty input or governance process. "	Finding 3.i.ii, pg 5		
33	NO	"A Certificate program in free market economics was established"	Finding 3.j.i, pg 5	6.d, pg 13	NO
34	NO	"A Certificate program . . . was established, again without faculty input."	Finding 3.j.ii, pg 5	6.d, pg 13	YES
35	YES	"National media discussion has had tremendous negative impact on the entire Economics department. FSU's academic integrity has been damaged. "	"Finding 4.i," pg 5		
36	YES	"It was reported that professional websites are questioning the quality of FSU Economics scholarship and asserting that bias is evident and assertions that faculty publications are being analyzed for such bias with suggestion that FSU research should be viewed skeptically by refereed journals in the field. Some Economics faculty discounted the importance of this particular website. "	"Finding 4.ii," pg 5		
<h2>Recommendations</h2>					
1	YES	"Consider terminating the Koch amendment. It is very tainted by having crossed the line on giving undue influence in return for money and the receipt of negative national publicity on this issue. It may not be "fixable" since FSU's academic integrity has been jeopardized. "	Rec. 1, pg 5		
2	YES	"If fixing is attempted via amendment and re-negotiation with the Koch Foundation, then it would be imperative to remove outside "control" elements . . . the Advisory Committee should be made advisory only by removing approval and oversight functions"	Rec. 1.a, pg 6		

3	YES	faculty should be selected with NO direct Koch involvement	Rec. 1.b, pg 6		
4	No	"Faculty lines should be filled by a search committee comprised only of Economics faculty members who would select faculty with no direct Koch involvement;"	Rec. 1, pg 6	1, pg 14	YES
5	No	"There are no recommendations with respect to changing any of the employment conditions of the 2 current faculty on the Koch tenure-track line. The Economics faculty unanimously agreed that these individuals were outstanding scholars making excellent progress toward tenure, that they had no limitations on research or teaching content, and there was no fear of undue outside influences creating bias in their scholarship."	Rec. 1, pg 6		
6	YES	"Some Economics faculty expressed fear that they might be stigmatized by the negative national publicity and, to protect them, that they should be removed from Koch funded lines to non-Koch lines."	Rec. 1, pg 6		
7	YES	"The Economics Club as constituted is in danger of promoting dogma vs. stimulating economic inquiry"	Rec. 2, pg 6		
8	YES	"terminate the "Economics" Club"	Rec. 2, pg 6		
9	NO	"[or] retain the club in its present format but label it appropriately, i.e. "Free Market Economics Interest Group," "	Rec. 2, pg 6	5, pg 15	NO
10	YES	"or keep the Economics club but ensure that it is representative of all types of Economic principles. "	Rec. 2, pg 6		
11	YES	"If it continues to exist in any format, faculty should be charged to: a. ensure that Economics students are taught academic discourse (formal rules of debate or deliberate, nonjudgmental voicing of pro and con opinions of issues under discussion)"	Rec. 2.a, pg 6		
12	YES	"ensure that all reading lists for scholarship money are determined by the entire departmental faculty without undue, outside influence"	Rec. 2.b, pg 7		
13	YES	"The BB&T agreement to teach a course using Atlas Shrugged must be discontinued. This agreement is selling academic credit to outside influence."	Rec. 3, pg 7		
14	YES	"We must stop the distribution of free books in an academic course which implies greater importance for this text."	Rec. 3, pg 7		
15	YES	"Re-establish faculty governance of the department that is balanced and inclusive of all areas. "	Rec. 4, pg 7		
16	YES	"Consider forming a departmental committee to determine if bylaws changes are necessary. Many Economics faculty questioned the definition of faculty in the department and confusion over who got to vote on what."	Rec. 4.a, pg 7		
17	YES	"Re-elect an Executive Committee for the coming academic year that is representative of the entire department with the objective of strengthening its involvement in governance."	Rec. 4.b, pg 7		
18	YES	"Re-establish the role of the Graduate Admissions Committee guidelines and recommendations for selection of graduate students for all fellowships, including the Koch ones."	Rec. 4.c, pg 7		
19	YES	"Return control of introductory courses to the departmental curriculum committee for content, department tests, etc"	Rec. 4.d, pg 7		
20	YES	"Solicit faculty input on selection of a chair. Some faculty feel that the atmosphere is so volatile that an interim chair should be appointed for the coming year while a search committee is formed for the selection of a new chair."	Rec. 4.e, pg 7		
21	NO	"When the new Provost arrives, re-orient all deans to the role of faculty in governance and control of curricular content, particularly the Dean of Social Sciences."	Rec. 4.f, pg 8	10, pg 17	YES